

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BOMBAY 00227 281856Z

50

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 PC-10 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01

EUR-25 OPR-02 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04 SR-02

ORM-03 AGR-20 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 SY-10 /229 W

----- 112559

O P 281100Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4209

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0227

DEPT PLEASE PASS AMB MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT IN

SUBJ: LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN GUJARAT

REF BOMBAY 0217 AND PREVIOUS

1. TO UPDATE, LATEST INFO OBTAINED FROM A PRIME CONTACT AHMEDABAD THIS MORNING BY TELEPHONE INDICATED ARMY SLATED TAKE OVER MAINTENANCE LAW AND ORDER AHMEDABAD AT NOON TODAY. THIS PRESUMABLY IN RESPONSE REPORTED GUJARAT EMERGENCY CABINET DECISION 26TH TO SEEK ARMY ASSISTANCE IN VIEW CONTINUED WIDESPREAD LOOTING FOOD SHOPS AND ACTS VIOLENCE WITHIN CITY. NORMALCY EXPECTED BE RESTORED CITY WITHIN 2 TO 3 DAYS. GUJARAT CABINET DECISION TAKEN IN AFTERMATH MOST RECENT INCIDENTS INVOLVING POLICE FIRINGS AND DEATHS JAN 25 AND 26 AHMEDABAD IN WHICH TOTAL 5 PERSONS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BOMBAY 00227 281856Z

REPORTEDLY KILLED.

2. ACCORDING GUJARATI SOURCES, JAN 25 STATEWIDE BANDH CALLED JOINTLY BY LEFTIST TRADE UNIONS AND STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL. AUTHORITIES WERE FORCED PLACE SOME 40 OF GUJARAT'S SOME 50 TOWNS AND CITIES UNDER CURFEW AS PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE. WORST INCIDENTS OCCURRED AHMEDABAD WHERE 4 KILLED IN COURSE STREET BATTLE BETWEEN MOB AND POLICE. CITY REPORTEDLY PARALYZED. TWO OTHERS KILLED ELSEWHERE THAT DAY (ONE IN LUNAWADA AND ONE IN DEHGAM). POLICE ALSO HAD TO OPEN FIRE IN BARODA AND SEVERAL OTHER TOWNS. ON 26TH ONE PERSON WAS KILLED IN POLICE FIRINGS IN AHMEDABAD AND ONE IN RAJPIPLA IN BROACH DISTRICT.

3. ACCORDING OUR SOURCES, SCHISM WITHIN RULING CONGRESS PARTY HAS DEEPEENED AND PRES GPCC DARJI IS EXPECTED TO COME OUT OPENLY AND DEMAND CHIEF MIN CHIMANBHAI PATEL'S RESIGNATION WHICH A MAJOR OBJECTIVE STUDENT AGITATION. IN CIRCUMSTANCES PM MAY INTERVENE AND PRESS CHIMANBHAI TO STEP DOWN AND IN FAVOR OF EITHER FIN MIN AMUL DESAI OR HEALTH MIN THAKORABHAI PATEL.

4. COMMENT. WE CONTINUE FEEL IMPOSITION PRESIDENT'S RULE UNLIKELY BECAUSE PROXIMITY U.P. ELECTIONS AND POSSIBLE RESERVATIONS AS REGARDS STRENGTH PRESENT GOVERNOR GUJARAT VISHWANATHAN (FORMER PCC PRESIDENT KERALA) TO ADMINISTER STATE UNDER PRESIDENT'S RULE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES A CABINET RESHUFFLE INCLUDING REPLACEMENT CHIMANBHAI SEEMS MOST LIKELY.

5. FROM WHERE WE SIT HOWEVER RESORT TO THE TRADITIONAL GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS IN THE CABINET, BLAMING THE JANA SANGH (DIXIT) OR "ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS" (CHIMANBHAI), OR EMPLOYMENT OF THE ARMY TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER WILL LIKELY NOT SUFFICE TO HALT THE HEMORRHAGE IN GUJARAT OR GET AT THE ROOT CAUSE OF POPULAR UNREST THERE WHICH IS SIMPLY ONE OF NOT ENOUGH FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES AND A GROWING LOSS OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE CONGRESS PARTY AND ITS GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS IN A STATE IN WHICH IT ENJOYS A MASSIVE LEGISLATIVE MAJORITY. THE SPONTANEITY AND WIDESPREAD NATURE OF THE VIOLENCE AND THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS PARTICIPATING IN IT SUGGEST THE POPULAR OR MASS CHARACTER OF THE UNREST. STUDENTS ARE PLAYING UNPRECEDENTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BOMBAY 00227 281856Z

ROLE IN STRUGGLE AGAINST GOVT. LARGE SCALE FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM GOI FOLLOWED BY EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE ONLY HOPE OF RESTORING NORMALCY GUJARAT. RATHER THAN TIGHTEN BELTS WE WOULD EXPECT PEOPLE TO CONTINUE TO TAKE TO THE STREETS WITH OR WITHOUT URGING OPPOSITION POLITICAL ELEMENTS.  
BANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL STABILITY, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL CABINET, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BOMBAY00227  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BOMBAY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740113/aaaaalhn.tel  
**Line Count:** 114  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BOMBAY 0217 AND PREVIOUS  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LAW AND ORDER SITUATION IN GUJARAT  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, IN  
**To:** NEW DELHI  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005